

The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Nisan+Iyyar+Sivan 5771 ■ May+June 2011

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

CSZ Annual Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 16, 6:00 PM DINNER/
7:00 PM MEETING

Elect officers, ratify the budget, honor volunteers, recap the past year, and look toward our future. All members are encouraged to attend.

Tikkun L'eil Shavuot

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011;

6:30 PM MA'ARIV;

7:00 PM DAIRY POTLUCK

8:00-11:00 PM STUDY

Feel free to drop in and add your personal *Midrash* to our evolving understanding of Torah and the World.

Pride at Sha'ar Zahav

CSZ Pride Freedom Seder

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 5:30 PM

Pride Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 7:30 PM

Pride Shabbat Continues

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 10:15 AM

Plus, join the CSZ contingent in the Pride March!

Please see pages 4-5 for more information

Praising Pride

BY KAREN SCHILLER

I've often said that if we ever stopped singing Hallel at Pride Shabbat, that's when I would know that we had totally abandoned our identity as a proud LGBTQ synagogue. I love that we include Hallel at our Pride service. It's important to me, and I think it's significant to who we are—but why?

I didn't come to Sha'ar Zahav knowing anything about Hallel—the psalms we sing at certain festive holidays. But as I started coming to services more and more often, I realized what it meant when the Hallel handouts came out of whatever drawer they were stored in. It meant: *Now is a time to be joyful. Now is a time to be thankful. Now is a time to offer praise.*

So of course we chant Hallel at Pride. It's a happy time, a celebration. It's a good thing to praise G-d (whatever you understand G-d to be) on days like this. But, I think, singing Hallel on Pride Shabbat is about more than offering praise and thanksgiving. For me, it's about claiming our importance in the world. It's about acknowledging that as queer Jews we are *central* to the Jewish community.

Our siddur says that very clearly. In describing Hallel, our congregants wrote, "Hallel is chanted after the *Amidah* on the mornings of Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot, Chanukah, Rosh Chodesh, and LGBTQ Pride Shabbat." No hesitation, no separation between the "real" holidays and our wanna-be holiday. Pride is right up there, equal to Pesach, Shavuot—as if one day the whole Jewish community will celebrate LGBTQ Pride as an essential part of the Jewish story.

As queer Jews—and I use the term "queer" here to embrace all of us who don't live our lives completely on the straight and narrow, who, for whatever reason, are insisting that boundaries and paths need to be fluid—as queer Jews, we can change the Jewish world for the better. By insisting that our lives can be the starting point for writing liturgy, creating prayer services and teaching Judaism, we are finding new—and re-finding old—ways to make a centuries-old tradition relevant, inviting and beautiful to all Jews, no matter what their lives are like. We are not the first to do this, but, at this point in Jewish history, we are the ones who have become the beacon of light, driving away the shadows that have hidden parts of Judaism's true nature.

In the everyday activity of keeping our *kehilla kedoshah* (holy community) running, I sometimes forget what we mean to the rest of the Jewish world. This past February, I was reminded of how important we are during a visit from some of the people attending the World Union of Progressive Judaism's conference in San Francisco. WUPJ is the international umbrella organization of the Reform, Liberal, Progressive and Reconstructionist Jewish movements.

(continued on page 3)

Pray to Music



While Rabbi Angel is on leave, the JGF brings you a message from our Cantor, Sharon Bernstein

THIS PAST YEAR, we decided to start a new musical service. We wanted to do something modern, sing-along-able, fun. Some rock, pop, blues, jazz. . . . (The next one is on May 6 – come!)

Though many congregations are now doing some kind of a rock 'n roll service, I hadn't put one together before. Thinking about the concept and checking out the soundscape of contemporary Jewish music became quite an adventure.

Setting sacred texts to popular music is not a new idea in the Jewish world. For many centuries, throughout the diaspora, there has been overlap and blending between Jewish music and the music of the surrounding culture. In Italy, one hears synagogue tunes which sound like opera arias and tarantellas (not at the same time . . .). Moroccan Jewish music sounds distinctively Andalusian. Iraqi tunes sound like what you hear on Iraqi radio. The elaborate coloratura of Ashkenazi Hazzanut is a direct reflection of the music in the opera houses that the Jews were not allowed to attend. The great choral music of Sulzer and Lewandowski imitated Protestant Church music. And certain Hassidim went out of their way to "save" popular non-Jewish songs by setting them to Jewish texts.

In the last few decades in the U.S., popular music has increasingly been making its way into Jewish and synagogue life. Debbie Friedman started this movement in the early 1970s by writing Jewish songs in a folk style inspired by figures such as Joan Baez and Peter, Paul, and Mary. Following her lead, multitudes of Jewish musicians have been writing songs and liturgical settings in every style of popular music imaginable.

Which means that, in putting together a new contemporary music service, there's much to choose from. I went through a pile of CDs, watched a bunch of YouTube videos,

scoped snippets on iTunes and oySongs (yes, seriously, there's a Jewish music site called oysongs.com), and enlisted our amazing in-house rockers—Carolyn Reiser on piano, Aaron Danzig on guitar, and Benjamin Scharf on drums—to help pick tunes and develop arrangements.

What we came up with is a mix of new tunes, including a country Mi Chamocha from Rick Recht, a blues Chatzi Kadish from Debbie Friedman, and a rock L'cha Dodi from Todd Herzog, plus our own arrangements of standard CSZ tunes, including a rock blues arrangement of Hinei Mah Tov, and a Latin jazz version of Ahavat Olam. We had a ball learning and sharing the music. Besides feeling like I'm fulfilling my life-long dream of singing with a rock band (I've heard that this is not unusual with opera singers), I'm loving the new dimensions of the prayers that are brought out through these different forms of music. And I'm feeling the music propel us into a spiritual groove that helps our hearts, as well as our throats, sing.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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TREASURER David Mishook

Praising Pride (continued from page 1)



On Friday, February 11th, Paul Cohen, Michael Tyler, Rose Katz, James Carlson and I had the privilege of welcoming about 20 conference delegates from around the world to our shul for a presentation and dinner. Before dinner, Paul, Michael and I spoke with the delegates about our history, our siddur and where we are today. We heard back from them about how important Sha'ar Zahav was to them. One delegate, a rabbi from the Ukraine, begged us to bring a delegation to his synagogue to help him teach his congregants to be more welcoming to LGBT people. Another told me how difficult it was being a gay rabbi in France and said he would be coming back to "refresh and rejuvenate." During dinner, I spoke with a straight rabbi who, with tears in her eyes, kept asking me to slow down, give her time to acclimate to the world in which we lived. We gave her hope, and she wasn't used to that.

During services that evening, we showed the delegates more of what it means to be an open, welcoming, queer synagogue. Our service was led by Cantor Bernstein and Karren Shorofsky, with Karren's wife Carolyn Reiser on piano and Aaron Danzig on guitar. We had special guest speakers that night—the two co-directors of Abraham's Vision (www.abrahamsvision.org), Huda Abu Arqoub, a Palestinian woman, and Aaron Hahn-Tapper, an American Jew. They spoke of the work they do with Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians and Huda spoke about her extreme joy over the events that were just then happening in Egypt.

The evening was completed with a celebration of Alan Gordon and Steven Schumacher's *auf ruf*.

For me, though, the most moving and inspiring moment of the evening came after the service. Aaron and Huda had brought along some of their students, including a group of Muslim students. Daniel Chesir invited them to the bimah, where he unrolled a Torah scroll to show to them. The rabbi from the Ukraine joined them and began teaching them about the Torah. How amazing it is that people from so many different geographical, political and spiritual places can come

together under our roof to form community, even if just for an evening. How very queer of us to make room for such diversity.

Our Immediate Past President, Alex Ingersoll, and his husband, Martin Tannenbaum, introduced me to the term "queer normative" to describe our synagogue and places like it—places that are not just "welcoming" or "accepting" but where queerness is a given. I like this term, I think it's a good description of who we are, but I have a hard time describing exactly what it means—except when I'm in another synagogue or some other place that welcomes us but isn't us. There, I feel constricted, claustrophobic, small. Here, I can breathe.

I don't want to suggest that we have completely figured out what it means to be queer normative, or that we do it perfectly. There are still people who are left out, who don't yet find themselves in our prayers and in our community, but I believe that someday they will, and "them" will become "us."

We also continue to struggle with the difficulties of reaching out to the edges while still maintaining our center. I think, though, this is a good struggle to have; it's about knowing who we are while still wanting to be more of who we can be. Our strategic planning process (and, by the way, you'll hear more about this at our Annual Meeting on May 16th) will help us in this process.

But, even with all our imperfections, we are still leading the way towards a Judaism that reflects and supports all of us, a Judaism that embraces both tradition and change, a Judaism in which we see ourselves.

And isn't this something worth praising? Something worthy of Hallel?

I look forward to seeing you at Pride Shabbat, Friday, June 24th, and then marching with you in the parade on Sunday.

Happy Pride!

Va'ad Members

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Alex Ingersoll
Aaron Danzig
Jo Ellen Green Kaiser
Michael Tyler
Jeffrey Piade
Beth Ross
Elizabeth Schaffer
Aaron Buchbinder
Kelly Cytron
Kevin Johnson

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Services

Friday Night Live

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 6:00 PM

Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups and celebrate Shabbat with us followed by pizza dinner (sponsored by parents), but we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well. This is the last FNL of this school year.

Annual Sha'ar Zahav/First Mennonite Church of San Francisco

2nd Joint Prayer Service

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 9:30 AM

In the Book of Isaiah we find these words, "My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples." Please join us this year as FMCSF hosts CSZ members for our second joint prayer service on Sunday morning. Our president Karen Schiller will be giving the sermon.

Tikkun L'eil Shavuot

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011

6:30 PM MA'ARIV

7:00 PM DAIRY POTLUCK

8:00 PM STUDY SESSIONS

Please join Cantor Sharon Bernstein, the educators of CSZ and special guests as we study various Jewish texts. Tikkun L'eil is an evening of learning in honor of our receiving *Torah* at *Sinai*. After some prayer and a dairy potluck, we'll be learning from 8 pm to 11:30 pm. Feel free to drop in and add your personal *Midrash* to our evolving understanding of *Torah* and the World

Yizkor Shavuot: Service of Remembering

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 10:00 AM

All are welcome to join Sha'ar Zahav as we hold Yizkor, the service of remembering. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on Shavuot. Say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembrance.

Va'ad Installation at Shabbat Services

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 PM

At Sha'ar Zahav, a covenant of leadership exists between our officers and Va'ad members and the Congregation. This annual Shabbat Service includes teachings on leadership and the installation of new Va'ad members.

Pride Seder at Sha'ar Zahav

7th Annual CSZ Pride Freedom Seder

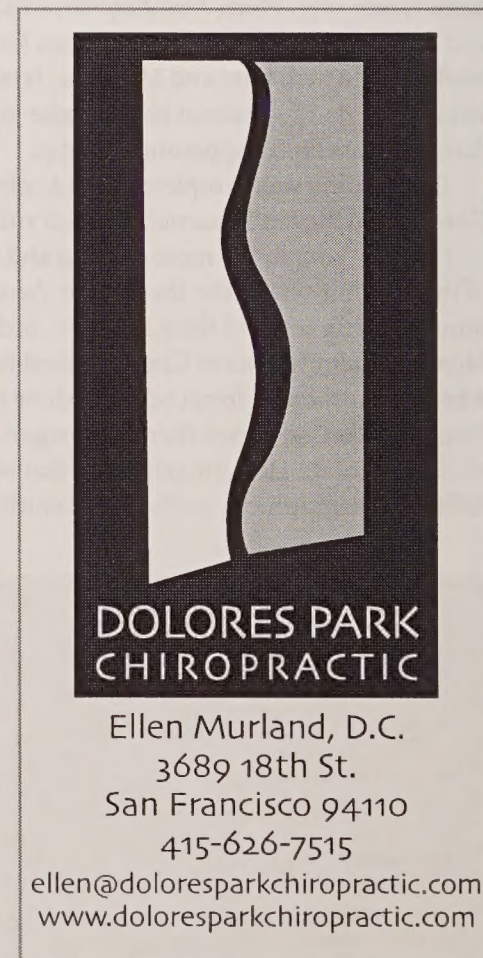
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 5:30 - 8 PM

Please join us for this exciting potluck Seder that weaves together our ancient story of liberation from slavery with the feminist and LGBT movements of modern times. See box for more details.



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Pride Shabbat

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 7:30 PM

Pride Morning Shabbat

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 10:15 AM

Check your email newsletter for news about special guests at these always amazing services.

Committees

CSZ-SFOP Local Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAYS, MAY 5 AND JUNE 2, 7:00 PM

Join us in building relationships and pursuing justice. Our current focus is how we can help improve state government so that more money will be available for health care, education and other worthy causes. There are many ways to be engaged, to develop leadership and relationships, to ACT. Be in touch and find the right fit for you. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff at vinicoff@hotmail.com.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 19

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to Sha'ar Zahav's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 6:45 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 6:45 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jisrael68@yahoo.com.

Post-Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, MAY 20

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join the Post Oneg Group for a pay-

your-own-way dinner at a local restaurant.

We welcome all current, prospective, or new members. For more information, please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com

Reserve Your Spot Now at CSZ's Pride Seder!

For a seventh year, Sha'ar Zahav host a Pride Seder, using a Haggadah created by many of our own members. Come join your friends, fellow congregants and community members at festive tables upon which you will find Seder plates with a whole new set of symbolic items that celebrate our journey to freedom. Read, learn, and rejoice with us in community.

Andrew Ramer will once again lead us. Wine and juice will be provided; please bring a vegetarian dish to share. The Pride Seder often sells out, so reserve your place now! \$5 CSZ members; \$10 general public. To register, call us at 415-861-6932 or email shaun@shaarzahav.org.

G3MH

LEGAL HELP? **Contact David Gellman**

Estate Planning – Business Law – Real Estate
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Personal Injury – Employment Discrimination

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Melbostad & Harris, LLP**

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San Francisco CA 94109-5494

Ch-Ch-Changes



DEAR Beit Sefer Families,

As we approach the end of another Beit Sefer School year, my mind immediately starts to think about ways that we can evolve the program for the coming year. I want to share some of my ideas with you and get your feedback.

Many parents have spoken to me about their desire to have more social interaction between students and their families outside of Beit Sefer. Towards that end, I would like to create Friday night Shabbat pot lucks and sleep overs at the shul for each class. This would allow parents to meet and mingle and then go out for the evening. Each class could have a really special experience at the shul, spending time together, sleeping over, and then waking up for Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer in the morning. My hope is this type of programming will create bonds between the parents and students of each grade.

I also would like to develop some school-wide mitzvah projects and special outings for the whole school. I have some ideas for programs but would really love the entire community's input as I develop the calendar for next year. Is there a special tzedakah program that you have participated in that would be a good fit for our community? Please let me know. I already have some ideas about a program that Janet Klein runs in Marin, which would get us into nature AND doing a mitzvah, so look for that scheduled for the fall of next year.

We will be doing fewer Shabbat Simcha programs next year, three instead of six, but will be bringing in other exciting Saturday morning programming. I also will be tweaking our opening circle and continue to improve on the changes in our Hebrew program, so please let me know (either through the survey you should have received by now or by

contacting me directly).

I also will be spending the summer working on the curriculum, further developing our Kehilla art program and looking for new materials to make Beit Sefer an engaging and interesting learning environment. Please check your weekly updates for changes and improvements at the school.

I also hope that, over the summer, you will take some time to come to the synagogue for services, special programs etc.

By the time that you read this, our school year will be nearing a close, so I want to take this opportunity to thank my teachers, parents and students for another amazing year at BSPM. As many of you know, this was a particularly challenging year for me personally and this community brought me so much strength and love during a difficult time.

From strength to strength we say, and I know we are going to go roaring into our next year with vigor, excitement, and a joy in Jewish learning. I can't wait to share it with you!

Have wonderful summers and

please always feel free to call me or stop by anytime.

Rebecca Weiner
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Education Director

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY

- 4 Wednesday Class
- 7 Shabbat Simcha,
9:30 am-12:30 pm
- 11 Wednesday Class
- 14 Shabbat Class
Last class: Teacher Appreciation,
Celebration of Learning, School Picnic
- 28 Mina Ostrow Bluethenthal
Bat Mitzvah

JUNE

- 3-5 CSZ Community Retreat

SHABBAT SIMCHA SCHEDULE

- 9:30- Ge'avah and Shinnui Opening circle in
Jessie's class, Holy Family Day, classroom
left.
- 9:30- Kehilla and Kadimah- Go to Class at CSZ
- 10:15- Youth Service at HFD for Shinnui and
Ge'avah
- 10:15- Service in Sanctuary for Kehilla and
Kadimah (and Beit Sefer parents!)
- 11:15- Learning Tracks
- 12:15- Festive Oneg

Mina Rae Ostrow Bluethenthal will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 28th, 2011. Mina carries the name of her trail-blazing great aunt—a strong-minded, independent, sharp-tongued, political activist and social worker. With her energetic, engaging personality, and exuberant nature, this generation's Mina shows all the signs of following in those footsteps—illuminating the world in her own unique style.

Always a voracious reader, Mina is a serious writer of fiction and poetry with her sights set on entering a writing program upon graduation from Creative Arts Charter School. Her love of music extends beyond her iTunes favorites of Eminem, Ke\$ha, The Script, and Kid Cudi, to six years of piano study and a recent foray into Taiko drumming. Mina is a great friend to



many, a passionate consumer of life's material and ephemeral treasures, a lover of fashion, and the youngest of 23 cousins.

Over the past year, Mina has em-

barked upon a range of community service activities - volunteering for her godmother's campaign for supervisor, assisting a street corner tailor who mends the garments of Tenderloin residents, heavy lifting at the Hayes Valley Farm, stints at the food bank, visiting elders at local nursing homes, and tutoring second

graders (whom she adores!). She has been a CSZ member with her family since pre-school and is blessed by an awesome mentor, Justyn Lezin. "I love her. She's an amazing mentor!"

PRACTICE AREAS:

Divorce
Domestic Partner
Dissolution
Separation
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Distribution
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Restraining Orders
Paternity
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Bikkur Cholim Fund

Florence & Steve Nacamulli to honor the holy work of our Chevra Kadisha volunteers.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher

Florence & Steve Nacamulli to acknowledge the beautiful friendship developed between Cantor Bernstein and Noah Nacamulli.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Sam Thal in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

Jonathan Funk in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

Jonathan Funk & Jon Arnold in appreciation of Sharyn Saslafsky, Nancy Meyer and Steve Mazer for co-chairing Cantor Unplugged.

in honor of Cantor's magnificent performance at Cantor Unplugged IV.

Avraham Giannini in honor of Cantor Bernstein.

Batya Kalis in honor of Cantor Bernstein.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Russell Tat.

Claire Boddy in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Henry Carrey in memory of his brother, David Carrey.

in memory of his bobe, FrahdI Herman Postalov.

James Chappell in memory of Russell Tat.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in memory of Russell Tat.

Steve Elman in memory of Dr. Russell Tat.

Jordan & Carol Levitin in memory of their friend, Ron Wilmot.

Deborah Levy in honor of Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher's wedding.
in honor of Elias Ross Trupin's bar mitzvah.

Ron Lezell in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Leslie Miessner in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Julie Moed in honor of Irene Ogus.

Florence & Steve Nacamulli in appreciation of the support and love received from the CSZ community.

Richard Shapiro in honor of Howard Steiermann's leadership during the time of Richard's father's passing.

Jon Uytterlinde

Lydia & David Zinn in honor of Ora Prochovnick.
in memory of Sylvia Radovich.

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Judith Bell & Jim Greenberg in honor of Sue Bojdak on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in memory of Alejandra Graham.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Isabel Fishman, Ron Gertz & Norma Faini-Pick.

in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Avraham Giannini in memory of Dr. Russell Tat.

Florence & Steve Nacamulli in appreciation of Rabbi's constant presence in Noah's life.

Robert Tat in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Rainbow Fund 5771

Anonymous (4)

Anonymous in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

Marianne Balin in honor of Andy Schwartz and Ami Zusman, Rainbow co-chairs.

Allan Berenstein

Ilana Bernstein & Diane Desmond

Ray Bernstein

Ruth Bernstein & Matthew Patchell in memory of Darlene Cohen.

Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Francesco Spagnolo & Ariel in honor of all the amazing leadership at CSZ.

Larry Best & Ming Leung in memory of Larry's father, Alan Best.

Michael Bettinger

Aaron Buchbinder in honor of Ruby Cymrot-Wu becoming an SFOP organizer.

Patty Caplan

in honor of the 2011/2012 B'nei Mitzvah Chavurah.

James Carlson

Dr. Phil Charney

Ellen Cleary

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman

Barbara Cymrot in memory of her father, Martin Cymrot.

Kelly Cytron, Judy Hogan & Sophie Hogan-Cytron

Aaron Danzig in honor of his nephew, Noam and niece, Lia.

Steve Elman

Martin, Meagan and Josephine Fox

Jonathan Funk & Jon Arnold

Avraham Giannini

Joan Goldman

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher

Sara Gorr in memory of her grandmother, Florence Gorr.

Andrea Guerra & Shoshana Levenberg in honor of their mothers, Marion Levenberg and Barbara Guerra.

Kirsten Gustavson, Amy Scharf

& Benjamin in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Howie Hahn

Rabbi Joe Hample

Tony Harris in honor of Karen Schiller.

Judy Huerta

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum

in honor of Ami Zusman and Andy Schwartz's hard work in making Rainbow a success.

Kevin Johnson in honor of Andrew Ramer.

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

Batya Kalis

Philip Kaplan & Ilona Turner

Lisa Katz and family

Rose Katz in honor of Paul Cohen.

Meg Keene & David Mishook

Ida Kuluk in honor of the Beit Sefer Community.

Deborah Levy

The Lezin-Schmidts in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Patricia Y.C.E. Lin in honor of Abi & Joshua Lin Weissleder.

Laura Lowe

Eileen Lynette & Charlene O'Neil in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Eve Meyer & Jim Edlin

Nancy Meyer in honor of Karen Schiller.

Richard Meyerson

Jeanette Nichols

Daniel Ostrow in honor of Justyn Lezin.

Drew Parker-Rose & Flavio Epstein in memory of Flavio's great aunt.

Jeff Piade

Andrew Ramer in memory of
Irmgard Baum.

Ann Ritzma & Elaine Porter

Nathan Robinson in honor of
David Gellman.

Neil Rosenbaum

**Beth Rubenstein & Evan
Markiewicz**

Sharyn Saslafsky

Liz & Michael Schaffer

Karen Schiller

Barry Schmell in memory of
his parents, Abraham & Shirley
Schmell.

**Andy Schwartz & John Mark
Eggerton**

Jacqui Shine

Jeffrey Shuman

Susan Tubbesing & Sarah Nathe

**Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack
Dana Vinicoff**

Julia Weber & Charles Fineberg
in memory of Julia's father,
Harold Weber.

Rebecca Weiner & Family in
memory of Shirley Weiner.

Lonnie Weiss in loving memory
of Vera, Joe and Jackie Weiss.

Larry Wexler

Judith Wolfe in memory of
Noah Nacamulli.

Dafna Wu

Regina Wurst

Dennis R. Ybarra

Mike Zimmerman in honor of
the Rainbow Campaign.

Ami Zusman

Naches

Mazel tov to **Cantor Sharon Bernstein** for
delivering a riveting performance at this
year's Cantor Unplugged!

Mazel tov to **Abi Weissman** on being
chosen as a one-year full-time pre-doctoral
Clinical Psychology Intern for the Student
Counseling Services at the APA-accred-
ited University of Southern California.

Life Cycles

Mazel tov to **Parker Windesheim-Zigas**
on the occasion of his becoming a bar
mitzvah on February 5.

Mazel tov to **Shelli and Marty
Rawlings-Fein**, whose son, **Matthew
Zvi Rawlings-Fein**, was born the morn-
ing of February 12. And a special mazel
tov to **Sadie Rawlings-Fein** on the occa-
sion of becoming a big sister!

Mazel tov to **Elias Ross Trupin** on the
occasion of his becoming a bar mitz-
vah on February 19.

Mazel tov to **Max Strassfeld** and
Stefan Lynch Strassfeld on the birth of
their son, **Micah Ruth Strassfeld**! Micah
was born the afternoon of February 15.

Hakarat Hatov

Toda raba to **Cantor Sharon Bernstein**,
Rebecca Weiner, **Daniel Chesir**, **Gabriel
Lampert**, **Jeff Piade**, **Dana Vinicoff**,
Marc Lipschutz, **Beth Sousa**, **Ray Bern-
stein**, **Nathan Robinson**, **Andrea
Guerra**, **Ilona Turner**, **Joe Freedman**,
Ben Lunine, **Terry Fletcher**, **Rose Katz**,
Shoshana Levenberg, **Marc Lipschutz**,
Ami Zusman, **Phillip Kaplan**, **Clarissa
Kripke**, **Gail Ludwig**, **Sara Haber**, **Janet
Klein**, **Lisa DiGirolamo**, **Tamar Ger-
shon**, **Karen Segal**, **Deb Yates**, **Julia
Weber**, **Sue Bojdak**, **KJ Landis**, and to
everyone else who devoted the time,
hard work, humor and talent that
made this year's Purim at CSZ a dy-
namic, joyful experience.

A huge, heartfelt toda raba to every-
one who has offered their time,
energy, resources and support to the
Nacamulli family in this period of
extreme challenge and heartbreak.
The love and support you have
extended to them is an amazing testa-
ment to the strength and character of
our community.

February

4/5

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush
Generously Sponsored by **The
Windesheim-Zigas Family** In honor of
Parker's bar mitzvah

11/12

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by
Michael Schwartz In honor of the *auf-
ruf of Alan Gordon and Steven Schumacher*
Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
The Gordon and Schumacher Families
In honor of *Alan and Steven's auf-
ruf*

18/19

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher**
In honor of *their wedding*
Saturday Kiddush Generously Spon-
sored by **Edie & Stan Ross and Adele
& Jerry Trupin** In honor of *Elias Ross
Trupin's bar mitzvah*

25/26

Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The
LGBT Alliance** In honor of *the Queer*

*Judaism conference (February 26-27th,
2011)*

March

4/5

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Roseanne Donner Colt** In memory
of *her father, Isaac C. Donner*
Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Carol
Barnett** In memory of *her father, Phillip
Barnett and her brother, Howard Bar-
nett*

11/12

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **James Carlson** In memory of *his fa-
ther, Raymond Carlson*

18/19

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **Paul Cohen** In memory of *his father,
Joseph M. Cohen*

25/26

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
by **James Carlson** In memory of *his
husband, Richard Roginski*

Whatever Happened to the Israel Survey?

BY TERRY FLETCHER

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Israel Survey, conducted in fall 2009 and released in December 2009, was regarded by nearly all in the congregation as a success and a giant step forward for our community. (For anyone who didn't see the results, or who would like to review them, they are available at <http://www.shaarzahav.org/archives>). But much time has passed since the results came out and many congregants may be wondering what has been happening in the meantime. Here is an update:

After the release of the survey results in December 2009 and with the agreement of the president and the rabbi, I

volunteered to start a committee to follow up on the survey. We wanted a committee that reflected the breadth of view of our congregation, now that we knew what those views were. To start with, I decided to invite specific people to join the committee to ensure balance and to form a group of people who could work well together despite our political differences. The committee now consists of Sara Haber, Davey Shlasko, Arthur Slepian, Dennis Ybarra, Karen Schiller, Mark Pressler, Aaron Buchbinder and me. We were left with the task of following up on the survey, but with no more specific mandate, so it has taken us a while to figure how to proceed. In addition, working on a committee as politically diverse as ours has presented many challenges; we have had to spend time simply getting to know each other and figuring out how to work together and for that reason our work has gone somewhat slowly.

Our committee created a number of goals for ourselves but for right now, we are working towards developing our capacity for integrating Israel-related programming and dialogue. During the report-back on the Israel survey, many congregants talked about wanting to understand each other's perspectives on Israel. Some congregants further noted that the lack of understanding of different political orientations to Israel is a barrier to full participation in the Congregation. On the survey, the overwhelming majority of Congregants also expressed interest in programming, especially relating to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

We hope that by integrating dialogue and programming on the Israel-Palestinian conflict we can make Sha'ar Zahav a more informed, educated and welcoming community for people all along the spectrum of views on Israel. (We also hope that the Congregation's participation in the Year of Civil Dis-

course's Project Reconnections can play a key role in developing our capacity for dialogue.) We are grateful to the Va'ad, which has expressed its support of our work and its commitment to this type of programming.

This summer or early fall, we will be holding a one-day facilitator training to train some of our congregants to plan and facilitate at Israel-related events which incorporate dialogue. The training will be conducted by the Philadelphia-based Jewish Dialogue Group (see <http://www.jewishdialogue.org/>). We were inspired to follow this model of facilitator training by reading about a synagogue in Chicago that worked with the Jewish Dialogue Group (see <http://www.chicagojewishnews.com/story.htm?sid=1&id=253990>). The beauty and practicality of this approach is that it would give us a pool of our own trained, volunteer facilitators who would be available to facilitate discussions at our events. Our committee will also be doing a conference call with the Jewish Dialogue Group's Executive Director this spring.

We have begun to brainstorm possibilities for the events we would like to hold once the training has finished. We are committed to doing events that appeal to, resonate with and represent the full spectrum of our congregants' views as expressed on the survey. We are also committed to creating a safe space for congregants to react to, discuss and dialogue about the views presented. If you have suggestions for events (films, speakers, theater pieces, topics, panels, etc.), please let us know. You can contact me at gillianfr9@gmail.com.

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Condolences

To **Kelley Clements**, on the death of her aunt, Patricia Ann Miller

To **Nina Raff**, on the death of her father, Samuel Raff

To **Robert Tat**, on the death of his father, Dr. Russell J. Tat

To **Stefan Lynch Strassfeld**, on the death of his auntie, Herb Spiers

To **Jenni Olson**, on the death of her friend, Edmond Jaruzel

To **Janis Portal** on the death of her mother, Marion Portal

To **Melissa Foster**, on the death of her friend, Heather Sanderson

To **Abi Weissman**, on the death of her friend, Michael Franco

To **Yonah Thunderword**, on the death of his son, Darryl Cook

To **Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli and Bob Nacamulli**, on the death of their son, Sha'ar Zahav member **Noah Nacamulli** (nephew of **Florence and Steve Nacamulli**)

To **Steve Moss**, on the death of his uncle, David Moss

To **Clarissa Kripke**, on the death of her aunt, Patricia Drescher

Member Yahrzeits

May

- 9 Richard Inlander
- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 Jerome Davis
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 19 Allan Altman
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loeb

June

- 2 Jay Feinstein
- 2 Mark B. Feldman
- 8 Robert N Mackey
- 8 Judy Macks
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 John Atteridg
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 15 Barry Siegel
- 16 Michael Randall
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 William E. Valentine
- 24 David Shaber

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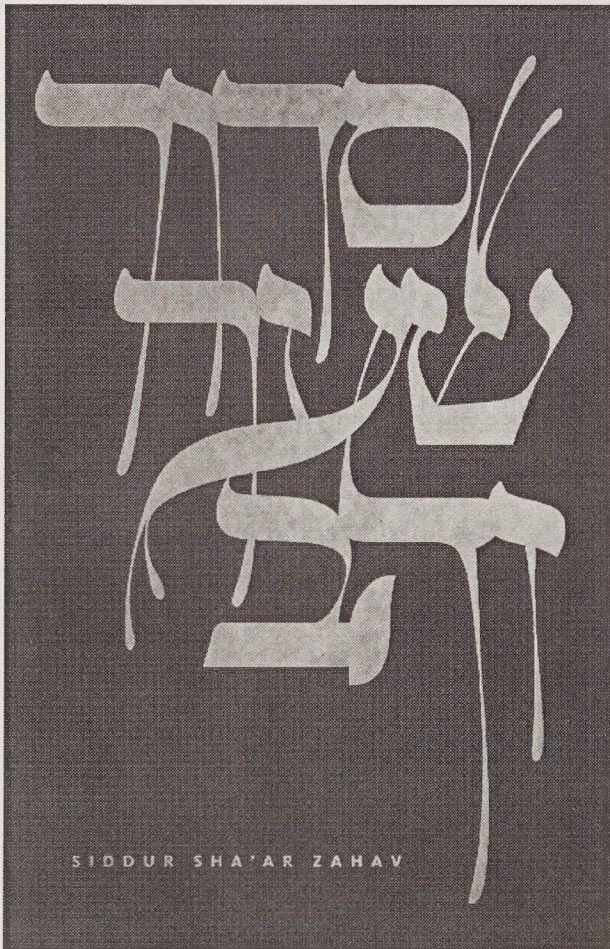
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